



San Gabriel Valley Examiner

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STRIVING FOR JOURNALISTIC EXCELLENCE IN LOCAL NEWS

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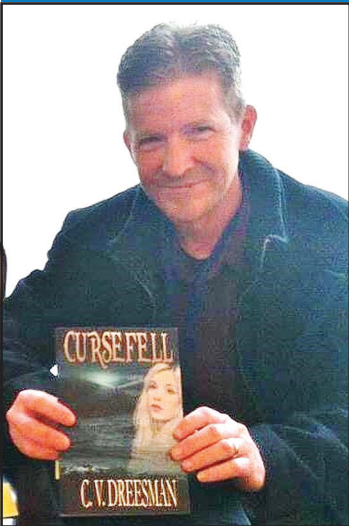
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Irwindale Chamber of Commerce's 2021 Business Awards Recipients



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IRWINDALE - The honorees for this year's Chamber Business Awards were recognized at the Irwindale Chamber of Commerce Annual Board of Directors Installation and Awards Dinner on February 18, 2021.

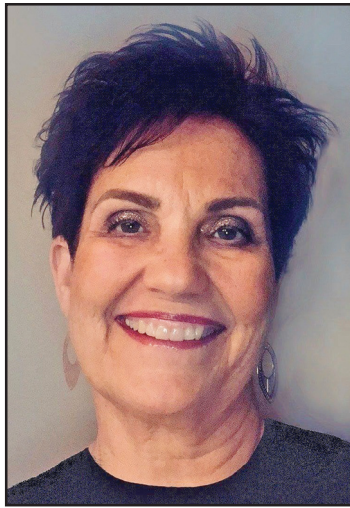
Joe Dishanni Business Of The Year - AMC Modern IT Services

41 Years ago, Joe DiShanni founded the Irwindale Chamber of Commerce. Joe launched the Chamber with minimal resources, and initially operated out of a garage. His hardwork, dedication, and commitment to the Irwindale community helps shape our Chamber today. Each year we honor the memory of Joe by presenting the annual Joe DiShanni Business of the Year to a Chamber Member that embodies the values and beliefs that Joe was so dedicated to. The belief that the business community should have a voice and should be partners with the residents to make Irwindale a thriving and robust place for our community to live and work.

Business Person of the Year - Judy Bradt, A Special Event



Joe Dishanni Business Of The Year - AMC Modern IT Services



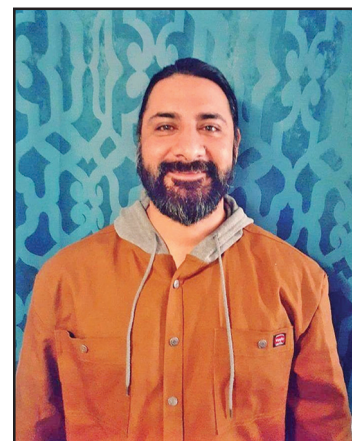
Business Person of the Year - Judy Bradt

This honoree started her business "A Special Event" in January, 1992. During her almost 30 years in the event decorating business, she has survived several recessions and many shifts within the industry. However, nothing prepared her for Covid-19. Her business was completely shut down

overnight in March 2020. All her weddings, private and corporate events canceled - she was left with nothing.

Employee of the Year - Paul Sandoval, Shepherd's Pantry

Paul has been with Shepherd's Pantry for 2 years. He manages the Irwindale,



Employee of the Year - Paul Sandoval

Baldwin Park and Glendora distribution locations. Paul works with LA Regional Food Bank ensuring that families from Irwindale to Woodland Hills and areas in between, have enough food to distribute. During the Pandemic he went from having to worry about 80 families to about 200 families coming in weekly.



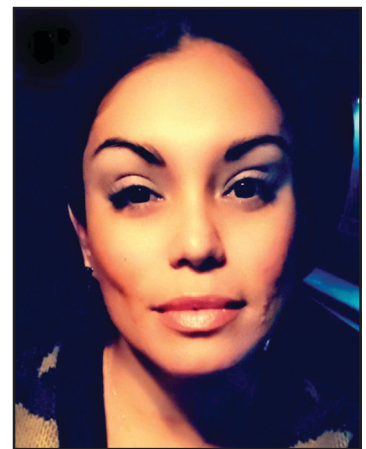
Non-Profit Of The Year - Foothill Unity Center, Inc

Non-Profit Of The Year - Foothill Unity Center, Inc.

The Irwindale Chamber of Commerce is proud of its many non-profit members that serve the Irwindale community. In the wake of a global pandemic, the hard work of our local non-profit community adapted to the community's needs and continued to serve our community. With so many organizations rising to the extreme challenges of 2020, picking this year's non-profit of the year was no easy task!

Citizen of the Year - Janell Tapia, Irwindale Resident

The City of Irwindale is a unique community, with a resident population of only 1,500.



Citizen of the Year - Janell Tapia

The Irwindale Community is really more like FAMILY. Community members treating one another like family is ex-

actly what this honoree has demonstrated throughout 2020. Janell Tapia is a proud resident of the City of Irwindale. For many years, she has demonstrated her love for the community with her actions and kind gestures.



Ambassador of the Year - Tara Gadsby

Ambassador of the Year - Tara Gadsby, Courtyard By Marriott

The Irwindale Chamber Business Ambassadors are at the heart of our Chamber. The Ambassador Committee is comprised of committed volunteers with a mission to connect and strengthen business relationships, communicate chamber benefits, bring exposure to its members and help businesses reach their ultimate goals. Ambassadors like this honoree, participate in numerous special events throughout the year.

Avoiding COVID-19 Vaccine Scams

Now that the COVID-19 vaccine is available for some residents of Los Angeles County, scammers are targeting local residents with new, vaccine-related schemes.

As with any scams, we want to make sure you protect your money and personal information.

First, the basics about COVID-19 vaccines:

- Get legitimate vaccine information directly from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health or your personal doctor. (The cities of Pasadena and Long Beach have their own health departments. If you live there, their websites will have additional information for residents.)

• The State of California and County of Los Angeles have a tiered system to determine who is eligible to receive the vaccine. Go to VaccinateLACounty.com to find your tier and an estimate of when you will be eligible to receive the vaccine.

• The COVID-19 Vaccine is free.

Avoiding COVID-19 Vaccine Scams

Here's the bottom line: if any-

Beware of Vaccine Scams

It's a SCAM if someone offers to sell you the COVID-19 vaccine or a chance to get vaccinated before it's your turn.

FACTS:

- COVID-19 vaccine is being distributed in a fair and transparent way. Vaccine is only being offered to healthcare workers and people who live in long-term care facilities right now.
- COVID-19 vaccine will be given to Los Angeles County residents at **no cost** and regardless of immigration status.

covid19.lacounty.gov

one claims they can get you into a higher tier, especially if they are asking you for payment or personal information, they are tricking you. **THIS IS A SCAM!**

- Do not pay a COVID-19 vaccine.
- Do not pay for access for a COVID-19 vaccine.
- Do you give your personal information to anyone after you

have applied through the County's website.

If you are a victim of a COVID-19 Vaccine Scam

If you believe you have been the victim of a vaccine scam or if you're just uncertain, please contact us at the Department of Consumer and Business Affairs. Call us at (800) 593-8222 or use our online complaint form.

Pet Lost for 15 Years Returned to Owner

LOS ANGELES COUNTY - On February 21, 2021, Officer Luis Leal from the Los Angeles County Department of Animal Care and Control (DACC) received a field call to assist an injured stray cat on the front porch of a Palmdale residence. Officer Leal immediately responded and brought the cat back to the Palmdale Animal Care Center where she was cared for and despite her injury, she was found very alert, healthy, happy and friendly interacting very well with the staff.

Fortunately, Officer Leal scanned the cat and was able to locate a microchip! The microchip traced back to a gentleman named Charles. Initially, Officer Leal made an attempt to contact the owner but was unsuccessful. As a result, Officer Leal left a message for Charles that his cat was found and is being cared for at the Palmdale animal care center.

On February 22, 2021, Charles called back and spoke with Sergeant Valles at the Palmdale animal care center. Charles was very confused and asked why he was receiving a call from animal control because he does not own any pets. Then, Sergeant Valles advised him that a cat was found in the City of Palmdale and her microchip information was linked back him.

Charles was completely shocked to hear that his cat "Brandy" was located as he had not seen her in over 15 years.



Charles and Brandy reunited after 15 years.

He was so happy you could hear it in his voice over the phone. Charles was very emotional and continued sharing with Sergeant Valles that "Brandy" went missing over 15 years ago and he never thought he would see her again.

Sergeant Valles then asked Charles if he was interested in picking up "Brandy" and taking her home. His reply was "yes, adoption is forever".

Charles was very pleased to hear that "Brandy" was alive, alert and in overall good health. When Charles arrived at the Palmdale animal care center, he was greeted and directed by

Palmdale's compassionate and friendly care center staff to spend time with "Brandy" in the "Meet Your Kitty" room. Once reunited with "Brandy" there was an instant connection that appeared to be unbroken even though Charles and "Brandy" only shared a few months before being separated for so long.

DACC encourages all pet owners to microchip their pets because without the microchipping of "Brandy" and the diligence of the officer, this reunion would have been impossible.

Glendora Woman's Club Announces Special Prize Winner

by Joan Hallidy, GWC Publicity Chair

GLENDORA - The Glendora Woman's Club is excited to announce the winner of the special prize Peacock Wall Hanging drawing. The winner was member Jan Jablonski, who was thrilled to receive the wall hanging.

The Wall Hanging was made and donated to the Club by member Nancy Fry, said Club President Chris Ohrmund. It coordinated beautifully with the special birds in Glendora.

Members and guests viewed the Peacock Wall Hanging several times at the Club and were able to assist in this fundraising project. The wall hanging measured 40 inches by 60 inches and the fabric was entirely all cotton, said Mrs. Fry.

Membership is comprised of ladies from Glendora and surrounding communities. To learn more about the Woman's Club, where this year's theme is "Look To The Rainbow," call 909-598-0554.



Using Play to Combat Your Child's Stress and Loneliness



PHOTO SOURCE: (c) fizkes / iStock via Getty Images Plus

With the pandemic continuing to disrupt routines, you may have growing anxieties about how the extended crisis will affect your child's social and emotional health long-term.

A new survey conducted by OnePoll on behalf of the The Genius of Play -- a national movement to educate parents and caregivers about play's vital role in child development -- examined the concerns of parents with children ages 2-18. Here are some of the findings, along with tips to counteract the negative effects of quarantine:

Social Skills

Seven in 10 parents believe spending a year in quarantine will have a lasting effect on their child's growth and development. Among those parents, the top concern is that it'll be more difficult for their child to connect with people in-person in the future (52%). Tied for second and third were concerns that it'll be more difficult for their child to play (44%) or make friends in the future (also 44%) after being separated from their peers.

"There are numerous playtime activities that boost communication and social skills, which can be adapted to this new reality," says Anna Yudina, senior director of marketing initiatives at The Toy As-

sociation.

During a period when travel is limited, Yudina suggests playing "International Menu" to help kids learn about the world. To play, pick a location and discuss its local dishes. Then, give kids Play-Doh to create them. Have kids play restaurant with their new DIY meals. Using action figures and toys, try other roleplay games that encourage interaction and communication skills that kids may not have practiced for awhile. Classic board games with questions and answers -- like Guess Who? -- can also help kids build and retain their social skills.

Loneliness

Four in 10 parents worry about their child's mental health as a result of the pandemic. What's more, 72% of respondents say they believe that during 2020 their child was lonelier than ever before. That's a feeling extending to parents themselves -- 58% said they, too, were lonelier than ever.

"Whether building a furniture fort, solving a puzzle or using a science kit, collaborative play gives us an opportunity to connect and combat loneliness while keeping children happy and entertained," says Yudina. "Playing together also offers parents insights into their child's world and what

may be causing their stress and anxiety."

An arts and crafts session presents an opportunity to connect with friends and family who your child may be missing. Break out the paper, stickers, markers, and safety scissors to create cards to send to loved ones.

Be sure to organize virtual playdates, too. The latest apps are making it easier for kids to read, draw, act out plays, and watch movies virtually with friends.

The Bright Side

Despite its difficulties, parents indicated that this period has had silver linings. When asked what positives have resulted from spending more time at home over the past year, the top response was being able to spend more time playing with their child (46%).

To get inspired to fill in all those additional hours with play, visit thegeniusofplay.org, a great online resource for parents offering tons of play ideas.

"The long-lasting effects of the pandemic are yet to be determined," says Yudina. "In the meantime, all this extended time at home is an excellent opportunity for families to connect and play, keeping both kids and adults social and active." (StatePoint)

Jobs Flow to Water Technology as Water Crisis Grows

Water has been called the "substance of life" and is often described as more precious than gold. The cause of conflicts and rivalries throughout history, the epic weather extremes of the 21st Century are driving speculation that the next world war will be fought over water.

The recent water crisis in Texas has once again pushed the importance of water to the forefront of public awareness. On February 25, the Water Affordability, Transparency, Equity and Reliability (WATER) Act was introduced into both houses of Congress. The bill, backed by more than 70 original cosponsors and 500 advocacy organizations, would provide a \$35 billion annual trust fund for urgently-needed drinking water and infrastructure improvements, and it would create up to one million high-paying jobs per year.

Once again, California's community colleges are leading the way in preparing workers for this unique and vital career/technical field. And classes are low cost and COVID compliant.

Serving San Gabriel Valley and Southern California, Citrus College offers various programs in water technology. One of many outstanding career technical programs at Citrus College, Water Technology prepares students for entry-level employment or advancement in the public water sector, including the distribution and treatment of water. Those already employed in the industry can use course credit as contact hours for license renewals or to move up to the next level of employment.

Citrus College students can also prepare for certification examinations given by the State Water Resources Control Board and the American Water Works Association. The college offers a Certificate of Achievement or an Associate Degree in water technology,



Dr. Edward C. Ortell, Governing Board Member, Citrus College background: Plaza Duarte water fountain (courtesy photo)

which will lead to careers in water supply, water efficiency, program conservation, conservation outreach, natural resources, environmental protection and many others.

Water management will likely remain a viable and growing job sector long into the future, and the importance of providing clean accessible water will remain a national and global priority. Just as the Egyptians built channels to draw water from the Nile for irrigation and transportation, and the Romans build their famous aqueducts to transport

fresh water to highly populated areas in their domain, water technology will continue to evolve and adapt to meet the changing needs of the times.

About the Author:
Dr. Edward C. Ortell is the senior governing board member at Citrus College and a Professor Emeritus at Pasadena City College. He has served on the California Community College Trustees (CCCT) state board of directors and 11 terms as president of the Citrus College Board of Trustees.

San Gabriel Valley Examiner
AN ADJUDICATED PUBLICATION FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATE

LEARN MORE ABOUT NEWLY ELIGIBLE GROUPS

Eligible for Vaccinations March 1st, 2021

- FOOD & AGRICULTURE
- EDUCATION
- EMERGENCY SERVICES
- GROCERY STORE WORKERS

Eligible March 1st 2021

HOW DO YOU PROVE YOU ARE ELIGIBLE?

- Document(s) are needed to show all 3 of the following: (Note: one document may cover more than one requirement e.g. if your paystub shows an address in LA County).
- 1) Photo ID (does not have to be government issued), **and**
- 2) Proof that you live or work in LA County (if your other documents do not include your home or work address), **and**
- 3) Proof that you are a food or agricultural worker.

INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

Eligible March 1st 2021

HOW WILL YOU GET VACCINATED?

- K-12 Teachers and essential education support staff can receive vaccinations through County-run MegaPODs or their healthcare providers.
- Teachers and essential workers at independent schools can get vaccinated at the County-run independent school only MegaPODs on Sundays (starting the week of 3/1).

HOW DO YOU PROVE YOU ARE ELIGIBLE?

- 1) Photo ID (does not have to be government issued), **and**
- 2) Proof that you live or work in LA County (if your other documents do not include your home or work address), **and**
- 3) Proof that you are employed in the education sector

INFORMATION ON APPOINTMENTS AT COUNTY-RUN SITES WILL BE AVAILABLE SOON.

Please visit [VaccinateLACounty.com](https://www.vaccinate.lacounty.gov) to make an appointment or for more information.

COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATE

FOOD SERVICE WORKERS

Eligible March 1st 2021

HOW WILL YOU GET VACCINATED?

- Workers supporting restaurant dining, table service, carry-out and quick serve food operations, including food preparation, carry-out and delivery food employees can get vaccinated at County-run Food and Agriculture only MegaPODs this week on **Tuesday and Thursday**.

HOW DO YOU PROVE YOU ARE ELIGIBLE?

- 1) Photo ID (does not have to be government issued), **and**
- 2) Proof that you live or work in LA County (if your other documents do not include your home or work address), **and**
- 3) Proof that you are a food or agricultural worker.

EARLY CARE & EDUCATION

Eligible March 1st 2021

HOW WILL YOU GET VACCINATED?

- Child care staff can receive vaccinations through County-run Mega PODs or their healthcare providers.
- Child care workers can get vaccinated at County-run child care worker only MegaPODs on Saturdays (starting week of 3/1).
- Additional information on sites will be available at your Resource and Referral Agency or Alternative Payment Agency.

HOW DO YOU PROVE YOU ARE ELIGIBLE?

- 1) Photo ID (does not have to be government issued), **and**
- 2) Proof that you live or work in LA County (if your other documents do not include your home or work address), **and**
- 3) Proof that you are employed in early care and education

FOOD MANUFACTURING WORKERS

Eligible March 1st 2021

HOW WILL YOU GET VACCINATED?

- Food manufacturing workers can get vaccinated at County-run Food and Agriculture only MegaPODs this week on **Tuesday and Thursday**.
- Those unable to go to a MegaPOD will be vaccinated through community based partnerships with vaccine providers.
- Food manufacturers in the City of Vernon will be vaccinated by Stacey Medical through on-site locations and mobile units.

HOW DO YOU PROVE YOU ARE ELIGIBLE?

- 1) Photo ID (does not have to be government issued), **and**
- 2) Proof that you live or work in LA County (if your other documents do not include your home or work address), **and**
- 3) Proof that you are a food or agricultural worker.

INFORMATION ON APPOINTMENTS AT COUNTY-RUN SITES WILL BE AVAILABLE SOON.

Please visit [VaccinateLACounty.com](https://www.vaccinate.lacounty.gov) to make an appointment or for more information.

COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATE

GROCERY STORE WORKERS

Eligible March 1st 2021

HOW WILL YOU GET VACCINATED?

- Albertsons (Vons, Pavilions and Sav-on), Costco and Ralph's grocery store pharmacy chains will provide vaccination to in-store, food distribution and transport workers for these chains.
- Grocery store workers who do not work at a facility providing vaccination through onsite pharmacies can get vaccinated at County-run Food and Agriculture only MegaPODs this week on **Tues. and Thurs.**
- UFCW 770 grocery store workers will be vaccinated through mobile vaccination clinics in partnership with Curative.

PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Eligible March 1st 2021

HOW WILL YOU GET VACCINATED?

- K-12 Teachers and essential education support staff can receive vaccinations through County-run MegaPODs or their healthcare providers.
- Select school districts may be operating their own pod.
- School districts not operating their own pod are partnering with local hospitals, health centers, or pharmacies to provide vaccinations for staff and teachers in their districts.

HOW DO YOU PROVE YOU ARE ELIGIBLE?

- 1) Photo ID (does not have to be government issued), **and**
- 2) Proof that you live or work in LA County (if your other documents do not include your home or work address), **and**
- 3) Proof that you are employed in the education sector

PORT WORKERS

Eligible March 1st 2021

HOW WILL YOU GET VACCINATED?

- Port workers can get vaccinated at County-run Food and Agriculture only MegaPODs this week on **Tuesday and Thursday**.
- Those unable to go to a MegaPOD will be vaccinated through community based partnerships with vaccine providers.

HOW DO YOU PROVE YOU ARE ELIGIBLE?

- 1) Photo ID (does not have to be government issued), **and**
- 2) Proof that you live or work in LA County (if your other documents do not include your home or work address), **and**
- 3) Proof that you are a port worker.

INFORMATION ON APPOINTMENTS AT COUNTY-RUN SITES WILL BE AVAILABLE SOON.

Please visit [VaccinateLACounty.com](https://www.vaccinate.lacounty.gov) to make an appointment or for more information.

Supervisor Barger Restores Funding To Parks And Recreation To Increase Access To Facilities And Programs

LOS ANGELES COUNTY — Through a motion by Supervisor Kathryn Barger that aims to invest services and programs in Los Angeles County communities, the Board of Supervisors approved the budget restoration of the Department of Parks and Recreation.

“After a year of decreased social and physical activity for families across Los Angeles County, our renewed focus on programs, staff, and services at local parks and nature centers provides an opportunity to rejuvenate our residents,” Supervisor Barger said. “Parks programs are a fundamental part of wellness for our neighborhoods and provide opportunities to play, grow, and create lasting memories.”

The cost of restoring recreation programming is \$2,120,000 in fiscal year 2020-2021 and \$8,586,000 of ongoing cost. The motion, coauthored by Chair Hilda L. Solis, approved funding for hiring, training, and

staffing hours previously cut back because of the pandemic, which will enable the department to provide safe opportunities and places for youth to play, including sports clinics and access to nature and open space.

Additionally, the motion allows the department to restore aquatics programming, including swimming lessons, recreational swim, pool access, lakes, and therapy and wellness. The cost of restoring swimming days at Santa Fe Dam and Castaic Lake Recreation Area is \$243,000 in fiscal year 2020-2021 and \$580,000 in ongoing costs. The budget will resume community pool operations in Arcadia, Granada Hills, Altadena, Littlerock, Quartz Hill, and Castaic.

“The pandemic has proven that parks are an important place for our vulnerable residents to seek refuge, rest, and recreation,” Barger said. “In many of our neediest areas, Parks and Recreation is the sole provider of affordable and accessible youth recreation and after school programs.”

The motion enables the Parks Department, CEO, and other partner departments to identify and allocate funding for the Parks After Dark program, which is particularly important given the increase in crime and mental health stresses presented over the last

year. This program was hosted at 33 parks before the pandemic and cost \$6,832,000.

Low income families and communities are most impacted by the pandemic and are also those who most benefit from the Department of Parks and Recreation’s services and activities. Restoring recreation programs addresses the devastating impact of COVID-19 and provides much-needed healing and community connection. Physical and mental health benefits through social connection provide a lifeline to youth who need support.

Because of the public health crisis, Parks and Recreation was required to cut eight percent of its costs last fiscal year, which was a \$12.9 million reduction in Net County Cost funding, plus an extra \$9.9 million because of revenue shortfalls. This led to a massive cut in staff, as the department significantly reduced its recurrent and temporary staff by 857 employees, recreation services staff were cut by 43 percent, lake lifeguards were reduced by nine positions, and pool lifeguard positions were completely eliminated.

“Restoring the Department of Parks and Recreation’s budget also allows hundreds of hardworking, passionate staff to return to work,” Barger said.

Nearly 2 Million Doses of the COVID-19 Vaccine Administered in LA County

LOS ANGELES COUNTY - Nearly 1,960,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been administered across Los Angeles County. Of those vaccinated, 600,497 people have received second doses. The County's network of vaccination sites had the capacity to administer 500,000 doses this week, although we only received 211,000 doses of vaccine last week.

On Monday, March 1, three additional sectors became eligible to receive vaccinations: education and childcare workers, food and agriculture workers, and emergency services and law enforcement workers. The County expects to receive 269,000 doses to be distributed

this week, of these, 103,000 will be provided for first doses. Those who fall under the newly eligible sectors will be able to get vaccinated at many sites across the County. Workers will be required to show proof of their identity with a photo ID and proof that they reside or work in L.A. County. Partnerships have been established to facilitate the vaccination process throughout the County.

The FDA has recommended Emergency Use Authorization for the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. This vaccine requires a single dose. Johnson & Johnson vaccine trial data indicate that the vaccine is very effective in preventing moder-

ate to severe COVID-19 disease and 100% effective in preventing hospitalizations and deaths. With the potential influx of supply, this vaccine could greatly accelerate progress in our vaccination efforts.

L.A. County is working to ensure that eligible residents and workers in the hardest hit communities have increased access to vaccines. For information about vaccine appointments in L.A. County and when your turn is coming up, to sign up for a vaccination newsletter, and much more, visit: www.VaccinateLACounty.com (English) and www.VacunateLosAngeles.com (Spanish).

Man Pleads Guilty to Murder for Killings in Covina, Azusa

LOS ANGELES COUNTY - Los Angeles County District Attorney George Gascón announced that a Long Beach man pleaded guilty to fatally shooting two people, including his estranged wife, in a three-month span in 2018.

“Given the senseless and brazen crimes committed by Miguel Angel Prieto, he will be sentenced to two consecutive life sentences,” District Attorney Gascón said.

Prieto entered the pleas to one count each of first-degree murder and second-degree murder and two counts of attempted murder.

On April 11, 2018, Prieto went to his estranged wife's Covina home, shot her several times, then fled the area. Authorities were called and Maria Perez, 42, was pronounced dead.

Several hours after the incident, Prieto was located in Long Beach and arrested in connection with Perez's killing, prosecutors said.

During the homicide investigation, law enforcement discovered Prieto was in Azusa on Feb. 9, 2018 when he mistook a man he believed was Perez's boyfriend. The man was sitting with

a woman in a car when Prieto walked up to the pair, spoke to them and later shot them, prosecutors added.

The woman, Rocio Sandoval, 38, succumbed to her injuries.

Prieto also was involved in a third shooting on April 7, 2018, prosecutors said. The defendant visited Perez's uncle's restaurant in Long Beach and shot at a woman.

Case KA117890 was investigated by the Covina, Azusa and Long Beach police departments and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

City of West Covina To Create Municipal Health Department

WEST COVINA – At the Tuesday, February 23, 2021 Special Council Meeting, the City Council of West Covina took a historic step that will lead towards creation of a local Health Department. The City Council adopted a resolution and urgency ordinance to conclude the City consenting to the health officer's services from the County of Los Angeles relating to enforcement of orders and quarantine regulations issued by the state and County. The resolution and ordinance will be sent to County by the 1st of March and will go into effect the 1st of July 2021.

The vote by the Council is one step of several towards separating health services from the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health (LADPH). The City of West Covina continues to be under contract with the

County for health services pursuant to the Health Services Agreement between the City and the County (executed July of 1963).

The City will start working with LADPH to determine the transitional process and the duties of the City's Health Officer, including services the City could start assuming the 1st of July. LADPH stated that LADPH will continue to serve the City in its current capacity until the transition to a West Covina public health department, including recognition by the State of California is complete.

Establishing a City health department will take time, planning and coordination through a process that has not been accomplished in decades. The City does not anticipate having a health department at the level of Pasade-

na or Long Beach by the 1st of July, but intends to provide services that are responsive to the community's needs. The City's desire to provide better health services and dedication to the community's safety will guide us through this uncharted process.

“West Covina will remain focused on protecting the environment and ensuring the health and safety of its residents, workers, visitors, and neighboring community. We intend to tailor operations to regulate and meet the needs of the community. This is not going to happen overnight, and we will work with LADPH on transition issues,” stated Mayor Letty Lopez-Viado. “The City's priority continues to be the safety of our community members and to provide the best services to our residents and businesses.”

West Covina Woman Arrested on Covid-19 Insurance Fraud

By George Ogden
BALDWIN PARK - A West Covina woman, identified as Stephanie Medrano, 33, female Hispanic, was arrested and pleaded not guilty to two felony counts of insurance fraud and one felony count of grand theft at her arraignment in a Los Angeles Court on Tuesday, February 23.

Her next court appearance will be at the end of March of this year.

Everything started to unfold for Medrano when she declared she was sick with Covid-19 symptoms. She started collecting workers compensation benefits because she stated she was sick and was being quarantined at home. This was found not to be true, according to the investigation.

She was employed by the Baldwin Park Unified School District. She reportedly con-

tracted the coronavirus at work. She claimed her COVID-19 symptoms were so severe she needed to self-quarantine at home for nearly a month, from July 6 to Aug. 3, 2020, according to reports.

The Department of Insurance was told by Medrano that she has only left her home a couple of times to go get medication for her mother. They also stated that this wasn't true and that she was going on shopping sprees and mingling with other people. They also stated that she was doing this without wearing a facemask. It was also disclosed that she had a phone visit with her doctor and she stated that she was experiencing problems from the Covid virus. Right after that she went to Lake Havasu with some friends for a weekend.

The school district had found out from what they felt were

reliable sources that there were some serious issues with this claim. The district filed a fraud claim against Medrano. An investigation was launched and there was evidence supporting this, in fact, more information came up to support this further. They were able to gather information that while in the Needles and Havasu area, she bought beer from a store in that area.

Felony criminal charges were filed and although some compensation has been paid to Medrano, there was a potential of over \$33,000 being paid out fraudulently.

She has only worked for the Baldwin Park School District for about a year. More likely the investigation may take a look at her previous employees to see if there's some type of a pattern.

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INFORMATION GUIDE

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Mission Statement

- We believe that journalism should be free from any motives other than relaying information to its readers. It should not be used to win a favor by flattery, to enhance a particular political interest, or for the purpose of financial gain.
- We also believe in accuracy in fact and context. Journalists should be accountable for any news or subjects they write about.
- We believe in growth. Therefore, complaints or mistakes erroneously committed will be entertained and investigated diligently and corrected accordingly.
- We believe in performing our journalistic work to the best of our ability and will continue to present the facts clearly and fairly.

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The San Gabriel Valley Examiner is grateful for the articles submitted by our unpaid writers who have contributed to the success of our newspaper. Our only request is that articles submitted be of minimal length in order to accommodate each and every writer. Thank you for your cooperation.

Community Articles Are Welcome

We are seeking articles, photos, and news event items for future issues of the San Gabriel Valley Examiner. Information can be sent to SGExaminer@aol.com. We request that articles be in Word format while photos be in jpeg. Articles should be in good taste.

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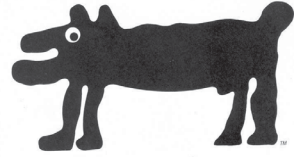
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BART The BLOCKHOUND



Silence captures a lonely mind when distraction occupies your psyche...

Trump Numbers Challenge Biden Harris Term

American Conservative Union put on a terrific program this weekend and among those front and center was Larry Kudlow, former broadcaster for the National Review and several CNBC shows. Recently he served as Director of the Economic Council for the Trump Administration so he is very aware of the numbers he presented to those attending and watching.

Larry Kudlow gave numbers that came out of the Trump Administration due to the strong, determination and leadership of President Trump. They are numbers that were taken from non-political reports and sources and will be very hard for the Biden Harris Administration to live up to or even come close to matching.

"President Trump got done in four years what nearly every other President couldn't get done in eight years," Kudlow said. He referred to lower taxes, deregulation acts, border security, China trade blocks, American trade deals that made America first in those deals.

Kudlow told the group when Biden Harris came on board after the inauguration, they said there were no vaccines. Just to clarify, he told the group about Operation Warp Speed. By using Operation Warp Speed to implement private sector genius and government deregulation, the Trump Administration generated the most significant medical scientific event in history. The proliferation of 85 or 90 million vaccinations is allowing schools to open up and the economy to take off again. Operation Warp Speed had provided enough vaccines to give 1.3 million shots a day when Trump left office.

"Trump helped the least among us. The Republican Party is becoming the party of the American worker first," Kudlow said. He proceeded to list those accomplishments and said right up front these were pre-pandemic



Shade's Perspective
Lois M. Shade
Former Mayor of Glendora

numbers, but if the policies are left in place, the economy and other numbers below will bounce right back up again. Trump's policies accomplished in three years what previous administrations couldn't do in eight years.

- Unemployment rate fell to 3.5%, the lowest ever.

- Real median family income rose five times before the pandemic for a total of \$6500 in three years.

- The biggest winners were African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Asian Americans, women, blue-collar workers, and with no more than high school diplomas.

- Trump created 50-year lows in unemployment with 160 million people in the workforce.

- Real wages increased 10% among middle class and blue-collar workers.

- The very rich or top 10% only gained 4%. Top 1% of very rich rose only 3%.

- Real household net worth [home, 401K, cash] three years before the pandemic saw household wealth for bottom 20% of the economy rise 34%; middle income rose 20%; the top 10% fell by 9%.

- Poverty rates came down more than in past 60 years. 6.6 million people were lifted out of poverty because of Trump policies giving people an opportunity to work.

- Child poverty fell 2%, the

most in 50 years.

- African American poverty fell by over 2%; Asian American poverty fell by 3%; and, all because of policies putting American workers first and letting our free enterprise system work.

Kudlow cited a Gallup Poll recording 56% of Americans believed they were better off than four years ago in spite of the pandemic.

WSJ Commentary by Graham T. Allison: Who made the vaccine possible? Not WHO! Not the World Health Organization, but the private sector pharmaceuticals and Trump's Operation Warp Speed. Even the well-known Anthony Fauci stated unambiguously: "It will take at least a year and a half to have a vaccine we can use."

Trump shows with regulatory reform, there can be savings and in the regulatory budget \$200 billion in savings was accomplished for small businesses, the very backbone of this country.

WSJ, Tale of Two Recoveries by Harriet Torry: "The economy grew at a record pace in the third quarter-increasing 7.4% over the prior quarter and at a 33.1% annual rate-recovering about two-thirds of the ground it lost earlier in the coronavirus pandemic. The increase in growth, the biggest jump in records dating to 1947, followed a record decline earlier in the pandemic when the virus disrupted business activity across the country." 10/29/20

Larry Kudlow's parting remarks were, "We are in a strong second recovery because Trump presided over an urgency relief package on a bi-partisan basis. He saved 50 million jobs. And, because of the low tax rates and deregulation he implemented, we are seeing the economy come back. Undo all the Trump policies and you will see this country lose ground and fall back to levels before Trump came into office. Far left policies won't work."

ence with the modern "Cancel Culture" we experience now. Instead of would-be Communists, it is now Conservatives and Trump supporters who have become the targets of a modern purge. People are threatened for having attended a Trump rally, supported Conservative candidates or have spoken out against Democrat administrations. Communism is no longer feared nearly as much as Conservatism. Today, Roseanne, Tim Allen, Mike Lindell, Marjorie Taylor Greene, Kurt Schilling, Trish Regan, Lou Dobbs, Drew Brees and countless others have become victims of this "cancellation." Ironically Corey Booker, the Leftist Democrat Senator from New Jersey made a reference to the film "Spartacus" during the 2016 campaign, as if he was fighting what he perceived as the same battle that Kirk Douglas, the defiant slave, was battling. But, ironically Booker is more like the Romans in this present day Spartacus scenario playing out with suits instead of togas.

Sadly there is no awareness among these cultural elites that there is any similarities with these folks now in the opposite role.

In "The Front," Ben Mankiewicz pointed out that Hecky Brown was based on a real person who lost it all with the black list. In the film, Brown maintained a happy face as he checked into a hotel room, ordered some liquor, took a drink and jumped out of the window. I wonder how many Hecky Browns have to take a leap before the cultural elite realize how far "Cancel Culture" has been allowed to go. "Cancel Culture" is just a nice, politically appetizing, phrase for "Black List."

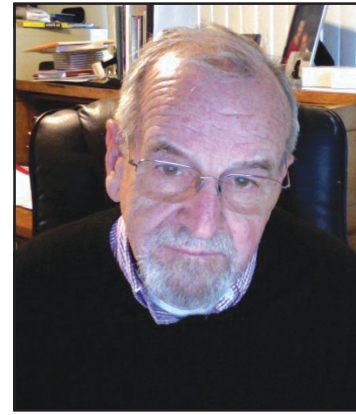
Rennie Davis

"I would like to use your church for a worship service." "Of course," I responded. "That's what our sanctuary is for. Tell me more about how I can help you."

"It's to worship Guru Maharaj Ji!"

I swallowed hard and then did my best to dissuade Rennie from using a Christian worship center for this celebration. I thought that ended things—but two hours later I was called to the church to witness what I assumed I had discouraged. The chancel had been decorated with flowers, and above the altar there had been erected a large picture of this 15 year old Indian lad dressed in a long white jewel-encrusted robe. Before it six of his disciples were swaying as they chanted what I was told were songs of praise. It appeared when I arrived that the event was just about over, and a group of my friends were standing by ready to dismantle the decorations. This event took place several months after the trial of the Chicago Seven."

I had known Rennie Davis, one of the seven, during what had taken place surrounding the trial that focused on events at the 1968 Democratic National Convention. Davis, with Tom Hayden, had formed the SDS (Students for a Democratic Society) whose purpose was to demonstrate against the Vietnam war. Together they had rallied a dedicated group of young antiwar radicals. While I was called before the grand jury and accused of being a co-conspirator, my role as the informal chaplain of the group was to keep "the days of rage" as non-violent as possible. (You may want to check out the film, "The Trial of the Chicago Seven") Rennie had struck me as the



Charles H. Bayer

movement's most intellectually bright, and emotionally stable of the political activists. The journalist, Nicholas von Hoffman, once described him as "the most stable, the calmest, the most enduring of that group of young people who set out to change America."

I had not been aware of Rennie's fascination with this Guru he wanted to worship using the church. Some time after the trial he was given a ticket to India and had returned an avid devotee of Guru Maharaj Ji, declaring that the Guru's teachings would provide "a way to fulfill all the dreams of the 1960s, through a practical method to end poverty, racism, sexism and imperialism." He later proclaimed, "I would cross the planet on my hands and knees to touch his toe."

The guru, who turned out to be enormously wealthy while less than godly, subsequently dropped out of sight as quickly as he had arisen.

In the years since, I had lost track of Rennie, and then on Feb.3 I opened the New York Times to discover that he had died at his Colorado home at age 80. According to his surviving widow, Rennie had never abandoned his

political passion, but had spent the ensuing years in relative obscurity where he worked as a business consultant promoting socially responsible investing.

I imagine each of us has somewhere tucked in the brain a list we might title "where are they now?" Rennie and the other members of the Chicago Seven are on my list. Tom Hayden is the only member of the group I have seen during this last half century. Yes the trial, whose details are still etched in my mind, took place over fifty years ago.

I am the product of my encounters with the untold numbers of people who have crossed my path, beginning with my parents. I include those who have died as well as those who have confronted me in books, music and all the complexity that is history. The notion that who I am is totally spelled out in my genetic makeup is false. Those of you I have personally known have shared in making me who I am. I also realize that every encounter has somehow influenced who you are. I am aware that much I have done has made a positive impact. I also know that my influence has not always been positive. I have done some terrible things and others have felt that negative impact, and I now must live with that guilt.

As I look back over a long life, and call into awareness the matrix of my encounters, I know again that we are not just individuals, but members of one another. So when Rennie Davis asked to have that worship service in my church, he helped form part of who I have become.

Contact Charles Bayer at candwbayer@verizon.net

MY TURN: There is "None Of Your Business, Like Show Business."

I was watching Turner Classic Movies the other night and the evening lineup was featuring the films of Zero Mostel. I saw a film I had not previously been aware of. It was a Woody Allen comedy-drama entitled "The Front," made and released in 1976, but taking place in 1953, during the time of the black lists. Mostel had a supporting role as a corny, but still popular, politically incorrect, comedy actor named Hecky Brown. Hecky was caught up in the black list investigations and found his career abruptly ended as a result. He was accused of being a Communist because he fraternized with a girl he was attracted to many years earlier who happened to be a Communist. "I have not been involved in politics," Hecky said to the FBI. "I wasn't attracted to her politics. I was attracted to her butt."

Allen played a man who had a dead end job as diner cashier and part-time bookie, but found a more lucrative career by helping his friend, a black listed screenwriter supplying early television shows with scripts. Allen, whose name was Howard Prince, agreed to pose as a new and unknown writer. He would negotiate the use of "his" work for the television shows in New York and then hand over manuscripts his friends, who were blacklisted, had written under the name Howard Prince. Prince would then pay them and keep his cut. His notoriety grew in time. Evidently, this was a common practice in entertainment in those days. "The Front" used several people whose credits on the film revealed were formerly black listed.

Hollywood and the Entertainment industry has been fighting the black list for decades since



Charles Lopresto

the days of Joe McCarthy.

Kirk Douglas was well known for his efforts to help out screen writer Dalton Trumbo. Trumbo was a black listed screen writer Douglas used, including work on two of the actor's favorite films, "Spartacus" and "Lonely Are the Brave." Douglas insisted that Trumbo's name be featured in the credits with no disguise. A few years ago Bryan Cranston portrayed Trumbo in a film about his life and that resurrected more commentaries, award show speeches and acknowledgement from Hollywood actors who long have despised the movement that resulted in the "Black Lists." And they pushed back against actors like Ronald Reagan who denounced Communism in the entertainment industry back in the 1950's when he was President of the Screen Actors Guild. The battle lines were drawn.

But the point of all this is simple. The hypocrisy, double standard and denial of self awareness that has developed lately involves current actors, entertainers, athletes with celebrity status and politicians on the Left that have begun to behave in the same way as the very people they once accused of intolerant practices back then. There really is no differ-

ence with the modern "Cancel Culture" we experience now. Instead of would-be Communists, it is now Conservatives and Trump supporters who have become the targets of a modern purge. People are threatened for having attended a Trump rally, supported Conservative candidates or have spoken out against Democrat administrations. Communism is no longer feared nearly as much as Conservatism. Today, Roseanne, Tim Allen, Mike Lindell, Marjorie Taylor Greene, Kurt Schilling, Trish Regan, Lou Dobbs, Drew Brees and countless others have become victims of this "cancellation." Ironically Corey Booker, the Leftist Democrat Senator from New Jersey made a reference to the film "Spartacus" during the 2016 campaign, as if he was fighting what he perceived as the same battle that Kirk Douglas, the defiant slave, was battling. But, ironically Booker is more like the Romans in this present day Spartacus scenario playing out with suits instead of togas.

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Wake Up America! Your Rights Are Under Attack By Your Government.

The First Amendment to the Constitution protects you and it is under attack.

My Opinion: By D. B. Shimel

The First Amendment protects five of our most cherished freedoms. These rights are the freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of peaceful assembly and the right to petition the government for redress of grievances. In this article I will present just a couple of the most egregious attacks on these freedoms. Let us start with the freedom of the press. What is meant by the 'freedom of the press' is that the people must have access to real news. In all dictatorships one of the first things regulated is the source of news.

Just in case you missed the latest news the Freedom of the Press is under attack by the Socialist Democrat Party.

Here is one of the latest examples of what is happening: The Democrat-led House Energy and Commerce Committee's Communications and Technology Subcommittee is looking at what they call disinformation and extremism in the media. That is the media outlets other than the ones they control. Congressperson(s) Anna Eshoo and Jerry McNerney, two California Democrats who both sit on the committee, sent a letter to twelve TV cable service providers, including AT&T, Verizon, Roku, Amazon, Apple, Comcast, Charter, DISH, Cox, Altice, and Hulu as well as Google's parent, Alphabet, asking them why they carried the three "purported" news outlets that they say function as "misinformation rumor mills and conspiracy theory hotbeds that produce content that leads to real harm. These 'rogue' outlets are One America News Network (OANN) Newsmax and Fox News.

In the letter, Eshoo and McNerney asked these companies the following: "Are you planning to continue carrying Fox News, Newsmax, and One America News Network, both now and beyond any contract renewal date? If so, why? The California

representatives wrote in letters that stated; "Right-wing media outlets, like Newsmax, One America News Network and Fox News all aired misinformation about the November 2020 elections," "These same networks also have been spreading misinformation related to the pandemic." What these Democrat Congress People mean is that these three outlets did not jump to announce that Biden had won the White House and did not state that the election was true and accurate.

As for the misinformation on the pandemic what they are referring to is things like the Hydroxychloroquine hoax. What was shouted from the MSM is that Hydroxychloroquine is a dangerous and ineffectual drug for treating this COVID Pandemic. What was not touted by these same MSM hypocrites was that within a couple of weeks after Biden was installed as the President a study was released by the CDC that showed that if Hydroxychloroquine is administered in the earliest stages of the disease number of deaths was reduced by over 67%. Did any of these outlets retract their criticism of proponents of the drug, e.g. President Trump? No, not that I am aware of.

Freedom of Assembly is also under attack. People who peacefully demonstrated in Washington DC on December 6 are being target by the FBI for questioning and arrest. I am not talking about those rabble who attacked the halls of Congress - they are and should be prosecuted. I find it interesting that people who in-

vaded government facilities last year during the "peaceful" (wink-wink) riots appear to be immune from the same scrutiny.

Bank of America is violating people's Fourth Amendment rights by voluntarily giving the FBI personal banking data of people who used their banking resources to travel to DC and also made purchases in gun stores. The Fourth Amendment protects your right to privacy, including your bank data, unless a judge grants the government the right to access these data. No judge has made any such decree.

Churches have had to go to court to over-rule the dictatorial rulings of Governors in several states, including California, preventing people from freely practicing their faith. Even then the number of people who can attend services has been limited. All this in the name of protecting people from the CCP virus.

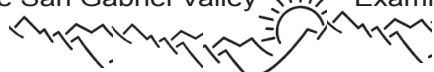
What is happening today in this Nation's Capital is a disgrace. Several miles of high security fence have been erected to deny the people of this nation access to their rightful property. I wonder where the government got the miles of this fence on such short notice. The reality is, DC is under military occupation. We the people own Washington DC, not Biden, Pelosi or Schumer.

Here are a couple of notable for you to ponder. "People who vote decide nothing". "People who count the votes decides everything". Joseph Stalin

And paraphrasing Ben Franklin "those who are willing to give up freedom for security soon will have neither".

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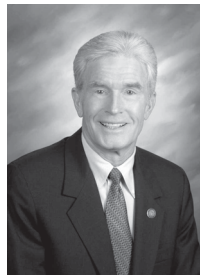
As If COVID-19 Was Not Enough!

China certainly is the country that keeps on giving! The *WSJ* reports China has decided to restrict rare-earth metal shipments to the US to disrupt various forms of American production. Defense contractors are expected to be most negatively affected. China currently produces 80% of these critical rare earths. It accomplished that dominance by driving other producers out of business, by flooding the market and causing prices to collapse for years. Current restrictions are not just China reminding the world that they are in control of key industries. It also is adding pressure to bilateral trade negotiations, as well as expanding China's profits in an industry with thin margins.

Beijing is exploring how much it can hurt U.S. defense contractors by limiting the export of rare earth minerals that are crucial for the manufacture of Lockheed Martin's F-35 and other sophisticated weaponry (according to the *Financial Times*). China's Ministry of Industry and Information Technology has proposed controls on the production and export of rare earth minerals from China. Industry executives say China's officials have even asked them how badly companies in the U.S. and Europe, including defense contractors, would be affected if China further restricted these exports.

Restrictive actions followed the Trump administration's deteriorating ties between the U.S. and China. What started as a trade war has morphed into a technology war, and at times a currency war. Limiting rare earth metals

In A Nutshell
What's up in the Economy?



KEN HERMAN
Economic Analyst
& Former Glendora Mayor

may be the next China front in its effort to control the USA. It also seems to have added leverage in other ongoing battles. The Biden administration has publicly indicated it would maintain pressure on China (no quick lift for tariffs), but take a more multilateral approach. But it is hard to believe his administration will support recent confrontational attempts to reverse China's influence over the free world. China's Foreign Ministry said last year it would also sanction Lockheed Martin, Boeing and Raytheon for selling arms to Taiwan, the self-ruled island which Beijing claims as its sovereign territory.

What are rare earths? The minerals are a group of 17 elements used in everything from high-tech consumer electronics like smartphones to military equipment. Despite the name, there are deposits of some rare earths all over the world. However, it is unusual to find them in a pure form or in concentrated quantities, hence the "rare" title. The U.S. is highly dependent on these raw materials for its defense capabilities. A recent Congressional Research Service report indicated that each F-35 re-

quired 920 pounds of rare earth materials.

Hopes of U.S. companies considering getting into the rare earth industry have been dashed in the past due to strict environmental regulations on extracting and processing. China also undercut world prices in the 1990s, leading to additional economic barriers to entry. There is currently no refining capacity in the U.S. (ore mined here must even be sent to China); but that likely will be changing. The Pentagon recently signed contracts with American and Australian miners to boost their onshore refining capacity, awarding contracts to various companies for facilities in California and Texas.

China recently clarified that rare earth exports will continue to the US, but warned they will be cut off to any country threatening China's internal security. The threat gives some background for President Biden's recent assertion that he would not question China's actions in Hong Kong, nor its assertions of One China Policy over Taiwan, nor its "actions" (described as genocide by the US State Department just a few weeks ago) against the Uighurs in Western China.

Bottom line: China continues to try to dominate (and bully) the free world – economically, via key industries, especially as it relates to military capabilities.

LIVE LOCAL, SHOP LOCAL – THIS IS THE TIME OUR MERCHANTS NEED US

I welcome your questions and comments:
kenherman46@hotmail.com

Your Money - Ask Julia

Whatever the reasons, (new President, the corona virus and its strains, the uncertainty of the effectiveness of the vaccine, or the length of immunity), gasoline and utility prices are increasing, and mortgage interest rates are climbing. I'm worried about the stock market and inflation. What can I do to be more prepared and protect my money?



Julia Yoder

Continue to hope for the best and plan for the worst. The economy has to be bad for several months before it is declared an actual problem like inflation or a recession. Take a detailed look at your budget. Could you spend less and save more? Remember the basic investing guideline: Buy when stock prices are low, sell when they are high. This is a good time to review your financial plans. Is all your money invested in your 401k? Talk to your plan advisor about risk and possibly changing your allocations. Look into putting some of your money into a fixed-indexed annuity, or fixed-indexed universal life insurance policy.

Do we have to pay taxes on all the profit we made from selling our house?

As a single homeowner, you can exclude up to \$250,000 of capital gains. If you are married, filing separately, each of you can exclude up to \$250,000. If you are married, filing jointly, together you can exclude up to \$500,000 of capital gains. This exclusion is allowed each time you sell or exchange your principal residence, as often as every three years. You are not required to reinvest your proceeds

into a new residence to claim the exclusion. To be eligible for the exclusion, you must have owned and lived in your home as your primary residence for a combined period of at least three of the last five years prior to selling or exchanging your principal residence.

Various things happened in my personal life over the last several years. These have undermined my plans to have plenty of money in retirement. How can I get over my feelings of depression and start to move forward?

Good and bad events in our lives (marriage, buying a house, unemployment, dependents' needs, serious health issues or accidents, divorce, economy, a pandemic, terrorist attacks, unusually-extreme weather) impact our best-laid plans. Each event typically derails a person's savings for almost 5 years. Insurance and emergency funds help in many cases. Your feelings are normal, and to be expected. What you're experiencing is equivalent to the death of a loved one. And, as such, the 5 stages of grief are applicable. Stage one is denial. This involves not

looking at your investment statements, hoping your losses are not real. The second stage is anger, when you ask, "Why did this happen to me?" Stage 3 is reasoning. When it comes to investments, this involves hoping the market will rally enough to return your retirement investment and plans to the way they were. Then comes Stage 4, depression, where folks find themselves giving up in hopelessness. And finally, there's the 5th stage, acceptance. This is where you realize that you've got to make the best of what you have, that bad things don't last forever, and that you need to make necessary adjustments. You'll feel better after gathering more information about your options and making a new financial plan. Take charge. Change can be exciting!

Can I deduct something on my tax return if I don't have a receipt?

Proof could also be a credit card charge, or bank withdrawal receipt with a note written on it as to its purpose. Sometimes an entry on your calendar, diary, or log of some sort might help. "Standard" deductions don't require receipts.

Ask Julia by email:
juliayoder@yahoo.com

This is your opportunity to simplify your life by having one professional working personally with you to coordinate your finances, investments, real estate, mortgage, insurance, retirement, and estate plans. CA Insurance 0C83859/Real Estate Broker 01238153/ Nat'l. Ethics Assoc. Accident-Medical-Dental discount plans: CalStarBenefits.com/28485

When Your Tires Should Retire

Replacing tires is expensive and the better you take care of them, the longer they will last. Still, tires do have a life expectancy but what that actual life span is seems to be up for debate. Some seem to think that six years is the magic number even if they haven't actually been used. When tires sit on a shelf or have been in storage for six years they still age and deteriorate. The Rubber Manufacturer Association says it isn't as simple as that. Until the experts agree it is up to us in the automotive service and repair industry to keep a good eye on our customers' tires.

Most consumers may not be aware that the date of manufacture is on the tire sidewall. For example, in a recessed area on a tire, a code such as 8PY0816 stamped on it, the 0816 means it was manufactured in 2016 and in the eighth week of that year. When you do purchase new tires check the date. Some tires sit around

for years before being sold as "new" and you don't want to purchase aging tires! You want to purchase new tires! That is what you are paying for.

It has been determined that over 6,000 accidents a year are caused by tire problems. Under inflation is a major cause, however tire monitoring systems have helped with this issue. Tires should be inspected every 3 to 4 months for inflation, wear, balance, alignment and rotation.

Tires do come with wear bars or flat spots between the tread grooves. When the tread wears to the point it is equal to the flat spots the tire needs to be replaced. When you look at the rubber tire and see cords showing through, or bulges, deep cracks or tread starting to separate, you have a very unsafe tire and should not drive on it.

Tips for tire inflation: some consumers think the tire pressure listed on the tire sidewall

is the proper pressure. That is not always the case. The tire pressure listed on the tire is the maximum pressure the tire can hold. The recommended tire inflation pressure can be found in your owner's manual, or on the vehicle's door jamb sticker. Keeping your tires at the recommended inflation can save you nine cents per gallon of gas and prevent premature wear.

And when you are thinking about tires, don't forget the spare! The tire monitor light will light on the dash if the spare is low on air for some models. Hopefully you won't have to use it, but it is nice to know it is ready just in case!

Certified Auto Specialists: the friendlier and more helpful auto shop! Feel free to call 626-963-0814 with any questions, and we will be glad to help, or visit our website at CertifiedAutoCa.com

Hometown Service You Can Count On!

Consumer and Business Affairs to Enforce "Hero Pay" Ordinance in Unincorporated Los Angeles County

Temporary 120-day ordinance went into effect on February 26

LOS ANGELES COUNTY - The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors passed an urgency and temporary ordinance that requires larger grocery retail and drug retail stores located in the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County to pay their employees no less than \$5-per-hour hazard pay in addition to the employee's base wage.

The new temporary "Hero Pay" Ordinance applies only to grocery stores, drug stores, or large retailers that sell groceries or drug products:

- In the unincorporated area of the County of Los Angeles
- With more than 10 employees per store
- Which are part of a company that is either publicly traded or employs 300 or more people nationwide

The Los Angeles County Department of Consumer and Business Affairs (DCBA) will accept and investigate claims from workers of alleged violations of the ordinance, which will be in effect for 120 days beginning Friday, February 26, 2021.

"We understand that both workers and businesses are faced with significant challenges during this ongoing pandemic and we are here to help," said Rafael Carbajal, Director of the Los Angeles County Department of Consumer and Business Affairs. "Our role is to enforce the

'Hero Pay' ordinance and to ensure that workers know their rights and that businesses understand their responsibilities and remain in compliance."

Workers must work at least two hours in a one-week period physically within a grocery retail or drug retail store in any unincorporated area of the County to be entitled to the new LA County "Hero Pay."

If you are a worker or a business owner seeking more information about LA County's new temporary "Hero Pay" Ordinance, contact DCBA:

Phone: (800) 593-8222
Email: heropay@dca.lacounty.gov
Website: dca.lacounty.gov/heropay

To find out if a grocery retail or drug retail store is in unincorporated Los Angeles County, visit the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk website at lavote.net/precinct-map and select "District Map Look Up By Address".

To assist businesses affected by the pandemic, DCBA launched the County of Los Angeles Disaster Help Center to connect business owners and others with available resources. Contact the Disaster Help Center:

Phone: (833) 238-4450
Email: DisasterHelpCenter@LACounty.gov
Website: lacountyhelpcenter.org

Scholarships Available for La Verne High School Grads

LA VERNE - La Verne Chamber of Commerce believes that a well-educated workforce makes good business sense for a vital and healthy Southern California. Their Scholarship Program encourages students to pursue higher education following high school. It's open to graduating seniors whose primary resi-

dence is in La Verne, CA, who will be attending a vocational/technical school, a community college or a four-year college or university.

The Chamber will be awarding multiple scholarships of up to \$500 each, which they will present at the recipients' schools' awards nights. If you know a qualified La Verne resi-

dent, have them call the Chamber at (909) 593-5265 or email leah@lavernechamber.org on how to apply. Names of winners will be announced on the La Verne Chamber of Commerce website in May 2021. Deadline for applications is Friday, March 26, 2021.

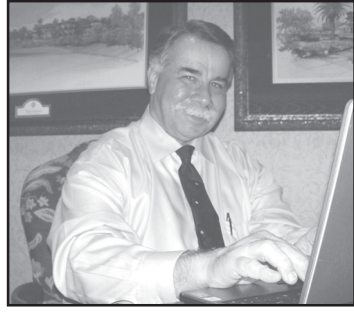
Around the Valley & Senior News

Stupid Ridiculous Statements Like "We Shouldn't Be So White?"

So now I'm hearing, "Don't be so White". Okay, I will go out and get a tan. Will that make you happy?

Where do people come up with these most stupid ridiculous statements that I have been hearing lately? Even on TV commercials. They are preaching that some type of menthol cigarette that's being sold was targeted towards the black community. Apparently, this is being done to harm the black community. Where are they getting this information from? I see menthol cigarettes everywhere, I have seen them being sold for years. Back in the day my community was basically white, but today most of the community is predominantly Hispanic. These cigarettes are still being sold in my area. Now who are they targeting?

What I like are the most stupid and idiotic statements you hear from parents when they're talking about their child who have been shot. They make statements that they shouldn't have been shot by either a citizen or police officer. My question is why not? Especially when they have a gun in their hand and this guy along with his buddies are robbing a liquor store. Another example, some dirt bag just recently shot 2 young women in the face while they were sitting in their car and killing one of them. Then he walks down the street and is confronted by police officers where on video it shows him shooting at them and they had to kill him. Then his community treats him as a martyr by putting candles out and raising hell that the police had to kill this murderer who was trying to kill the police officers. That particular police department usually waits 72 hours before



George Ogden
That's just the way it is!

releasing body cams and vehicle dash cams. A memorial was being set up to honor this person, who was a murderer, who was trying to kill our police officers. Once the police found out, the police department immediately released those videos that they had to the news media and posted it on YouTube. It's absolutely clear that these police officers did their job, and I may say they did it well.

I got into it with some lady when she made a comment that I have white privilege. I asked what the hell she was talking about. Why do you say that? Because I worked all my life to make money to try and support myself and "other people" I don't know? I didn't steal from people, use drugs, however I did become alcoholic and I resolved that issue 25 years ago. So, what is it? Is it because I'm too white? So, I decided to go ahead and solve that problem right there and started speaking Spanish to her. I ended it with the last word being pendeja. Then I said, there, I not so white. I think I won that little debate.

With all these stupid ridiculous comments that are coming out and declarations that individuals have "white privilege" does nothing more but divide this country further and further apart. This contributes to the racial divide

that we have today and is getting worse. The actions of those that are responsible are the ones that are bitching the most about this happening.

Even our political environment is causing such a divide that it has basically destroyed this country. The power that they now have, they use against the people. They are supposed to work for us. We are supposed to tell them what we want them to do, and they should work to enforce that. It is no longer working that way. They tell us what to do.

We have a controlling power in this state that makes all kinds of stupid statements. We have laws that we voted on that are removed by the politicians. The death penalty for example. How about that new Los Angeles County District Attorney? He puts nobody in jail and releases them immediately, and totally handcuffs our police. This has caused citizens to make sure that they have firearms at the ready when needed. This "no bail and release" has got to be the most ridiculous and dangerous thing I've ever seen in a long time. This DA in my opinion needs psychotherapy of some sort. They already have a recall going for this guy. They also have a recall going for the governor and he's trying to bail himself out of this one by saying that we can open things up. After so many lives have been destroyed by these 2 people, give me a break.

Unfortunately, whether you supported these people are not, we are still under their same rule and will continue to hear some of the most outrageous comments and statements coming from these people. All I can say is good luck to all of us.

"That's just the way it is!"

Seen or Heard Around Town And in The Valley

By Ed "Hondo" Torres

1. From the passage of the 1964 Civil Rights law onward, great strides have been made in improving race relations, but apparently for political gain and commercial profit some politicians and national news organizations have fomented a false picture of an ugly America full of rampant racial hatred.

2. "Diversity Classes" for employees are not necessarily a bad idea, but companies fail their employees and society if they carelessly hire diversity class presenters whose preconceived conclusion is that all Whites are racist, and who respond that anyone who questions their preconceived notions is proof-positive that Whites ARE racist.

3. If California Governor Newsom is "recalled", the recall of the anti-police Los Angeles County District Attorney GASCON will follow.

4. Some "never Trumplers" of the old Republican establishment, such as Republican Senator ROMNEY and Congresswoman Liz CHENEY (and others), apparently are continuing to try politically to "knock out" populist TRUMP so that the establishment will regain control of the Party.

5. Some schools are opening (and they're all way past

due)... But, no one ought to be surprised if some schools try to stay closed 1-2 years before they reopen. And, do not be surprised as well if older teachers in droves then seek retirement - what a "gig".

6. President Biden seems to be quite inarticulate and easily confused the few times he speaks extemporaneously.

7. The railroad tracks have been removed from Lone Hill Avenue and Auto Center Drive in Glendora in preparation for the Gold Line "flyover" bridge - quite an achievement in the making, and probably will be more eye-appealing than the railroad bridge over Route 66 in town.

8. Seems like no street bicyclists follow the rules-of-the-road.

9. The Corona Virus government ordered closures have caused terrible losses for many businesses, but in some cities the problem has led to the reenergizing of the downtown area.

10. Reportedly, some political leaders and societal elites in countries south of America's southern border say that because the governmental leaders in the U.S.A. are so simple-minded -- as to permit "open borders" -- they have no qualms about encouraging the mass migrations of their citizens to America (including their criminals), thereby ridding themselves of countless problems and expenses.

Comments to Ed "Hondo" Torres: honnod1@yahoo.com

Spring Classes & Summer Camps Registration

ARCADIA - Registration for Spring classes and Summer Camps is right around the corner. Sign up for virtual classes, select outdoor lessons, Wilderness Day Camp, Sports Camp, and Specialty Camps. Online registration for Arcadia residents begins on Monday, March 1 and non-resident registration begins on Monday, March 8. For a complete list of programs and details, please visit us online at arcadiaca.gov/recreation. For more information, please call 626.574.5113. Please note that all in-person classes and camps adhere to the most recent COVID-19 regulations.

Registration begins on Monday, March 8. For a complete list of programs and details, please visit us online at arcadiaca.gov/recreation. For more information, please call 626.574.5113. Please note that all in-person classes and camps adhere to the most recent COVID-19 regulations.

As More Businesses and Schools Reopen, Public Health Highlights the Most Effective Ways to Prevent COVID-19 Transmission

LOS ANGELES COUNTY - As businesses and schools begin to reopen with safety modifications in L.A. County, Public Health continues to remind everyone that 1) wearing a mask, 2) washing your hands or using hand sanitizer, and 3) keeping your distance from people that don't live with you continue to be the best ways to avoid getting and spreading COVID-19. Our daily new case reports remain high, and community transmission is still widespread.

Gatherings, even with people you know who have no symptoms and have tested negative, can still result in spread of the virus to many people. The risk of spread increases when people are not diligent about consistently and correctly wearing face masks or keeping their physical distance and when people gather indoors.

Daily testing for the virus is not a substitute for masks, infection control and distancing since it does not prevent someone from becoming infected and from passing the virus along to others. Because of the virus' long

incubation period, even a person who has recently tested negative for the virus could be positive within hours of testing and can infect other people unknowingly.

As a reminder, anyone who tests positive needs to isolate from others for at least 10 days, until symptoms have improved, and they are fever free for at least 24 hours. Any person that tests positive for COVID-19 may be able to infect others for up to 10

days after being diagnosed, even if the person never had symptoms or their symptoms have subsided, and anyone who tests positive for COVID-19 may have infected others at least 48 hours before they tested positive or before they had any symptoms.

Isolating when sick or after testing positive and quarantining when exposed to an infected person are two other critical strategies for slowing the spread of COVID-19.

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MARCH 19-28

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Register online by **March 18** at www.covinaca.gov/parksrec to participate. For more information, please email citrus5k@covinaca.gov or call (626) 384-5340.

\$20* per person
*includes t-shirt & medal

#citrus5k @cityofcovina

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
1. *A or O, to blood
 5. Catch a wink
 8. "Don't know what to say" sound
 11. Eon, alt. sp.
 12. Severe blow
 13. *Blood ____, type of blood test
 15. Eastern ____, 1947-1991
 16. *Respiratory rattling
 17. Enormous ones
 18. *Annual exam
 20. Largest city of Norway
 21. Like a romantic movie?
 22. *Anatomical pouch
 23. Work over with fists (2 words)
 26. Levee next to water mill
 30. Not cooked
 31. What a terrorist wants to spread
 34. Continental currency
 35. Wide open
 37. Charged particle
 38. Colorado resort
 39. Hipbones
 40. Recede, as in tide (2 words)
 42. Laos resident
 43. Stinging shrub, pl.
 45. Handrail's main supports
 47. Caribou kin
 48. Relating to a lobe
 50. Saint's topper
 52. *L in ACL
 55. Bad-tempered
 56. Affirm with confidence
 57. Stain on Santa
 59. Work the dough
 60. Tiger Woods' pegs
 61. Ruptured
 62. " ____ my party, and I'll cry if I want too..."
 63. Store posting, abbr.
 64. *Largest organ
- DOWN**
1. Can opener
 2. Crowd's judgement
 3. Tubby little cubby
 4. Enclose within a cyst
 5. W.E.B Du Bois's org.
 6. Assuage
 7. Spa treatment
 8. 2016 western " ____ or High Water"
 9. Type of shark
 10. Not Miss or Ms
 12. Influenza
 13. Sandbar
 14. *Cardiac, smooth or skeletal ones
 19. Quickly fry
 22. Knightly title
 23. *Cerebellum location
 24. Two under on one hole
 25. Look forward to
 26. *Kissing disease?
 27. Having two parts
 28. Beetles: "He's ____

THEME: HEAD TO TOE

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10
11					12				13	14	
15					16				17		
	18			19					20		
				21					22		
23	24	25				26			27	28	29
30				31		32	33		34		
35			36			37			38		
39				40				41		42	
43				44				45		46	
				47				48	49		
	50	51				52				53	54
55						56			57		58
59						60			61		
62						63			64		

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- nowhere man" (2 words)
29. Plural of #26 Down
32. *12 pairs of these
33. Rip off
36. *a.k.a. kneecap
38. Mr. T's team
40. Comic book cry
41. Unlocks the gate
44. Andrew Webber's middle name
46. Forcefully grabs
48. *Blood filter
49. S-shaped moldings
50. "The ____ for Red October"
51. Greek god of war
52. Strip of wood
53. Breakfast spot?
54. Spelling or Kelly
55. Biathlon equipment
58. One less than jack

February 25, 2021 Puzzle Solution

I	S	M	S		T	A	U		A	P	E				
S	H	A	H		T	A	L	C		O	G	L	E	R	
M	I	L	E		R	I	L	L		N	O	T	E	R	
	V	I	R	G	I	N	I	A		A	N	O	N		
	P	A	S	T	S		W	I	Z						
D	R	E	A	M	T		M	A	R	A	C	A	S		
H	E	X		M	E	C	C	A	S		G	U	N	K	
O	S	T	I	A		A	U	G		S	A	I	G	A	
W	O	R	N		A	D	R	I	A	N		N	E	T	
S	W	A	D	D	L	E			S	I	N	G	L	E	
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	B	E	A	U			D	I	V	I	S	I	O	N	
P	E	N	N	I			E	W	E	R		A	M	O	K
T	R	I	A	D			L	I	R	E		D	I	V	E
A	N	D					E	S	T			S	T	A	G

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Arcadia Author C.V. Dreesman Pens Third Novel

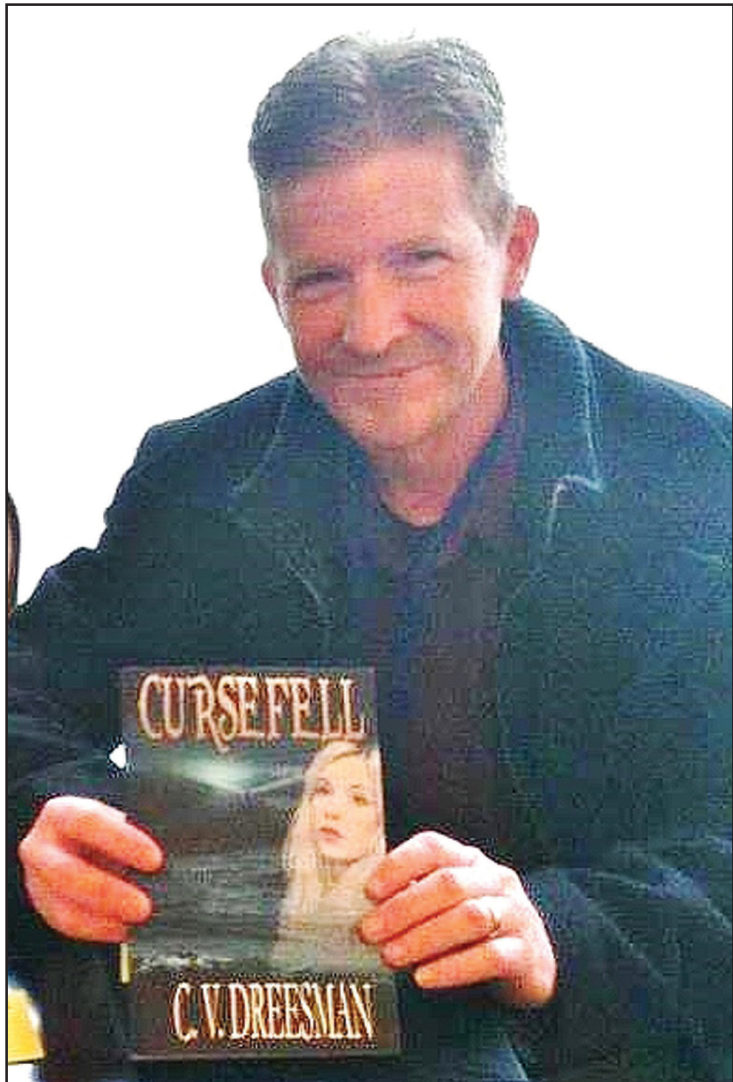
By Joan Schmidt

Author C.V. Dreesman grew up in Arcadia and always loved writing. Early works included "Bridget", "A Re-Cycling of Faith" and "Pantheoness". After graduation from UC Davis, (English major), Chris has worked as a Private Investigator, Front Office Manager for the Sacramento Rivercats, and Crew Member at Helitac Air Carriers; yet never leaving his main passion-writing.

The Slave Within was his first fantasy novel. Crone has long been a slave, long desiring freedom. The whispered words of a dream lead Chrome and his companions to act, and they become pawns in an ancient game of power.

The Marksman, ("The Tear of Ahl Saga", Book 1,) is his second work, available on Kindle. Crone, the main character escapes a life of slavery, is then hunted from his slave masters and thrown into a world of intrigue and treachery. The Marksman has received many good reviews: "Many twists and turns in this plot, interesting, vivid characters that interacted well... I knew this was a winner."

His third book, Cursefell is Book 1 in the "Venom Home Series." This Young Adult Fantasy is considered "One of the most original unique stories I've ever read" by bestselling author Katie Jennings. A year after following her mother to the isolated town of Stonecrest, teen-aged Thera is



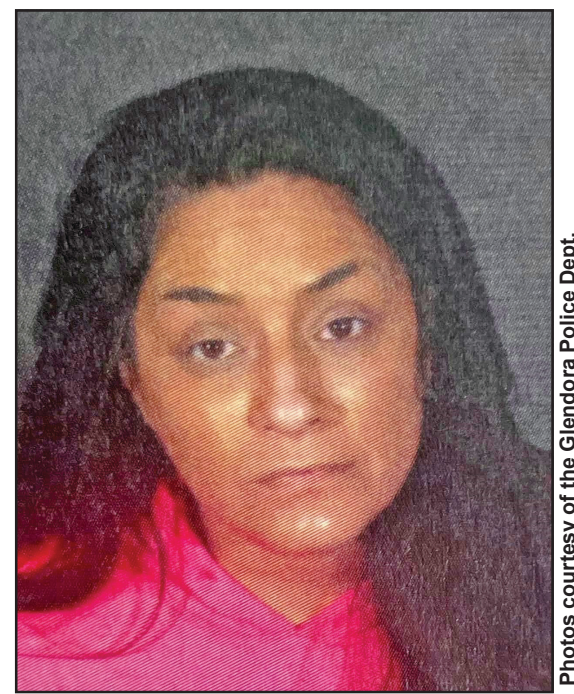
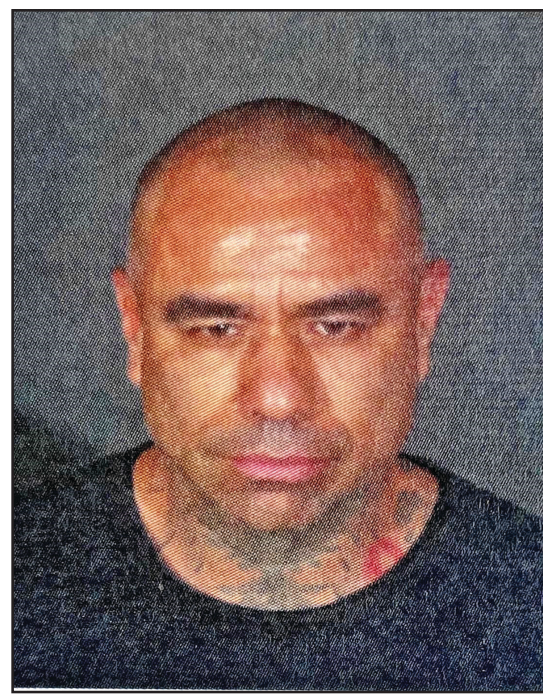
Author C.V. Dreesman with his third book, Cursefell

still too shattered to completely let go of her grief of loss. She didn't think her life could uncoil much further when during a boating accident; she is attacked by a monstrous sea creature that shouldn't exist. Thera must search for answers not knowing

she carries a secret curse. An exciting read!

To find out more about this great writer, visit C.V. Dreesman on Facebook. The Marksman and Cursefell reviews are on Amazon; Kindle editions available.

Residential Burglary Suspects Arrested In Glendora



Photos courtesy of the Glendora Police Dept.

Gabriel Arroyo, 44 years old from Glendora, and Aimee Rodriguez, 43 years old from Baldwin Park

GLENDORA - On Saturday, February 20, at approximately 5:00 pm, Glendora Police Officers responded to a call of an armed residential burglary in the area of 1000 S. Glendora Ave.

The victim reported that she returned home from walking her dog to a unknown man inside her home. The suspect stole her cell phone and ran away holding a handgun.

The male suspect entered a get away vehicle and fled the location southbound in a black sedan.

Neighbors rushed to her aid and called 911. Responding officers quickly identified both of the suspects through video surveillance from prior incidents involving mail theft, and from prior contacts with them.

The suspect's vehicle was located at a residence in Glendora, and Gabriel Arroyo, male, 44 years old, from Glendora, and Aimee Rodriguez, female, 43 years of age, from Baldwin Park, were taken into custody without

incident.

The Los Angeles County District Attorneys Office reviewed the case yesterday and filed one count of residential burglary against each of the two suspects involved. Arroyo was released from custody on a \$50,000 bond and Rodriguez remained in-custody on a \$125,000 bond.

If anyone has any additional information, please contact the Glendora Police Department at (626) 914-8250.

COVID-19 Testing Kiosk Opens at USS Iowa

LOS ANGELES COUNTY - Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn has announced that a free COVID-19 testing kiosk has opened today at the USS Iowa, located at 250 S. Harbor Boulevard in San Pedro.

"Our vaccination effort is our top priority-- but until everyone has the opportunity to get vaccinated, testing is an important part of slowing the spread of this virus and protecting our community," said Supervisor Hahn. "This new free testing kiosk at the USS Iowa is going to be a quick, accessible way for dock workers and harbor area residents to get tested and get results quickly."

The testing kiosk at the USS Iowa - launching in partnership



Erika Velazquez and Matt Johnson are first two people to be tested at new testing kiosk at the USS Iowa.

between LA County and Fulgent Genomics Laboratories -- will be open 7 days a week from 10 AM to 5 PM and is able to do 500 PCR nasal swab tests per day. Insurance is not required.

"COVID-19 testing is as important as ever," said Dr.

Clemens Hong, with the Department of Health Services, who oversees COVID-19 testing for Los Angeles County. "We're thankful that fewer people are being hospitalized and more people are getting vaccinated. Still, we can't let our guard down and we must ensure everyone who needs a test can get one quickly. Even as the situation improves, the County will continue to add more testing, including partnerships with local cities and pop-up sites like these."

Both walk-ins and scheduled appointments are accepted. Appointments can be scheduled by visiting la.fulgentgenetics.com/appointment. Test results will be available within 24 to 48 hours.

For more COVID-19 testing locations, visit <https://covid19.lacounty.gov/testing/>.

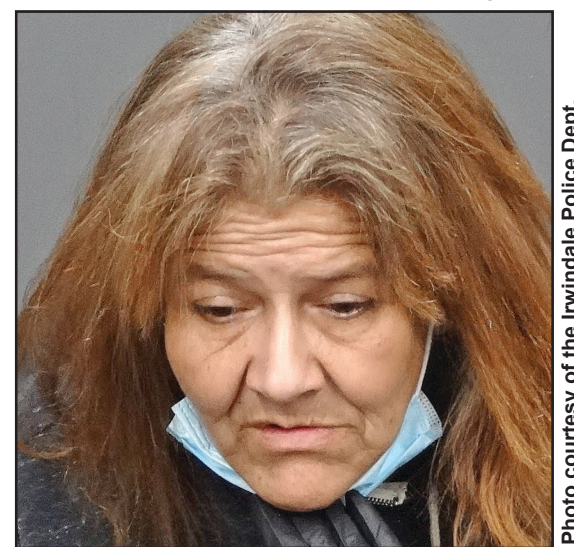
Suspect Uses Vehicle To Ram Gate Into Secure Police Facility

IRWINDALE - On Saturday, February 27, 2021, at about 6:13 P.M., our Communications Center personnel observed a vehicle on the police station's camera system ramming into a rolling gate leading to the police station's secure parking area. The police dispatcher saw the vehicle repeatedly ramming into the gate, eventually knocking the gate completely off the track, forcing the gate open. The vehicle then entered the police station's parking lot.

Irwindale police officers were immediately dispatched and arrived within minutes. As they did, they saw the driver was now using her vehicle to ram the perimeter wall and other property inside the parking lot, causing extensive damage. The officers were able to immediately detain the driver without incident.

The suspect, Anna Maria Guillen, a 57-year-old resident of Pomona, was booked at the jail on felony vandalism and trespassing charges. Her vehicle, a 2000 Nissan Xterra, was impounded and two small dogs found inside her vehicle were released to the Los Angeles County Department of Animal Control and Care.

"Thankfully no one was hurt in this incident, including the suspect," stated Irwindale Police Chief Ty Henshaw, "The quick response by our officers prevented additional damage to city property and



Anna Maria Guillen, a resident of Pomona

our patrol cars."

Damage to city of Irwindale property is preliminarily estimated to be in excess of \$25,000.00. The Irwindale Police Station is located at 5050 N. Irwindale Avenue in the city of Irwindale and the damaged metal rolling gate leads to a secure police parking lot located on the north side of the police facility in the 16000 block of Calle Del Norte

Photo courtesy of the Irwindale Police Dept.

Supervisor Barger Leads Efforts To Protect Victim's Rights And Strengthen Victim Services

LOS ANGELES COUNTY - Supervisor Kathryn Barger's motion to explore ways to protect and support the rights of crime victims was unanimously approved by the Board of Supervisors.

"Victims of crime and their loved ones endure significant trauma and often struggle with a lifelong recovery process," said


Supervisor Kathryn Barger. "We are responsible for providing the necessary trauma-informed services to help them through that painful recovery. This motion will help us recommit our county to supporting victims and their families who are suffering through no fault of their own."

Through today's motion, Supervisor Barger has asked the Chief Executive Office to work with the District Attorney's Office to review existing resources available to victims such as the Unclaimed Restitution funds of the DA's Bureau of Victims Services along with resources from the State's Victims Compensation Board, to increase the number of advocates available to victims and to explore ways to enhance trauma informed and

multi-disciplinary services provided to victims of crime.

The motion also requests that County Counsel, in consultation with the Chief Executive Office, the District Attorney's Office and the Sheriff's Department, provide a legal analysis of the Victims' Bill of Rights Act of 2008 and any other victim-rights related California laws and a summary of the corresponding county policies and procedures to adhere to said laws.

"I am committed to working with District Attorney George Gascón, who has pledged his support for this effort, along with our partners in the justice and law enforcement community who are dedicated to protecting the rights of our innocent residents," Supervisor Barger continued.



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Glendora-Chamber.org

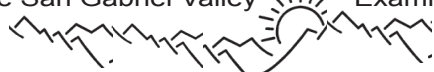


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Baldwin Park High School's Leo Club Creates Scholarship to Honor Beloved Student

BALDWIN PARK - Baldwin Park High School's Leo Club has created the Veronica Sanchez Memorial Scholarship and organized an online fundraiser, with a goal of raising \$2,500 to support seniors continuing their post-secondary education at a four-year university, community college or trade school.

Veronica Sanchez never let a challenge discourage her. As a sophomore at Baldwin Park High School, Sanchez always pushed herself to succeed, taking rigorous Advanced Placement and college prep courses, as a flautist in the Baldwin Park Braves Entertainment Corps, and serving her community as a member of the National Honors Society and the BPHS Leo Club.

In March 2020, Sanchez died unexpectedly, devastating family members and friends who remembered a sweet-natured and compassionate young woman with an optimistic outlook and smile that lit up a room.

To honor Sanchez's memory and achievements, the Leo Club created the Veronica Sanchez Memorial Scholarship and organized an online fundraiser, with a goal of raising \$2,500 to support seniors continuing their post-secondary education at a four-year university, community college or trade school.

"Veronica Sanchez touched the hearts of so many, especially within the Leo Club," Baldwin Park High teacher and Leo Club adviser Victor Maldonado said. "Her dream was to go to Harvard, so the Leo Club established a scholarship in her name to inspire and assist students who display academic excellence, leadership skills, and a commitment to service."

Recipients of the Veronica Sanchez Memorial Scholarship will receive \$500 to help cover textbook purchases or other



Baldwin Park High School's Leo Club has created the Veronica Sanchez Memorial Scholarship and organized an online fundraiser, with a goal of raising \$2,500 to support seniors continuing their post-secondary education at a four-year university, community college or trade school.

costs associated with attending college. The fundraising goal of \$2,500 would provide five years of scholarships. The fundraising period ends on April 9.

The inaugural Veronica Sanchez Memorial Scholarship will be awarded to a Baldwin Park High Class of 2021 graduate. The Leo Club has worked with the District to create a scholarship board consisting of students, faculty, administrators and family members to oversee the application process and determine the scholarship winner.

Baldwin Park High's Leo Club was created in 2020 by students as a community service and social service club dedicated to providing high-quality career-oriented activities, community service events, and leadership opportunities to prepare its members through its three principles: leadership, experience and opportunity.

Leo Club members focus on student well-being, organizing

weekend mental wellness workshops with healthcare providers such as Kaiser Permanente, and boosting the spirits of struggling students by sending them personalized postcards inscribed with inspirational messages.

Leo Club members are also active in the Baldwin Park community, creating Happy Cards for senior citizens and Clay Hearts for hospice patients.

"It is heartwarming to see our students work together to honor the life and memory of Veronica Sanchez," Superintendent Dr. Froilan N. Mendoza said. "Though Veronica's life ended too soon, her legacy will endure through a scholarship that will enable other Baldwin Park High School students to achieve their dream of pursuing higher education."

The Veronica Sanchez Memorial Scholarship online fundraiser can be found at <https://fundly.com/veronica-sanchez-memorial-scholarship-fund>

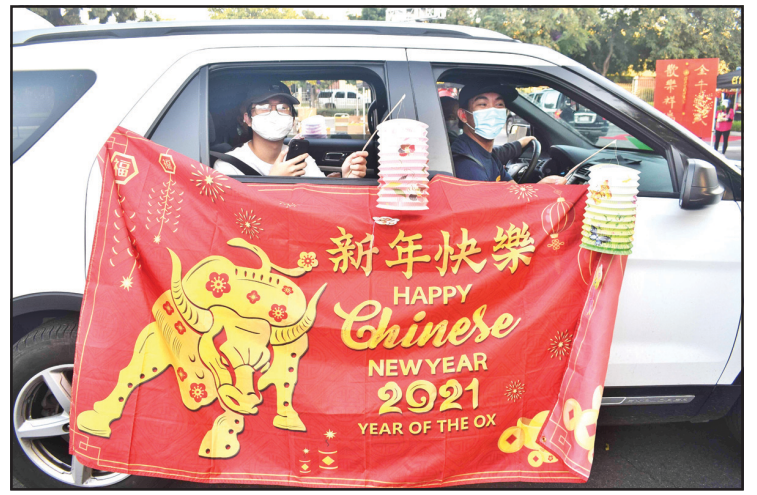
El Monte Union Commemorates Year of the Ox with Drive-Thru Lunar New Year Celebration

EL MONTE - Red lanterns and Chinese artwork decorated the El Monte Union High School District office complex, heralding the Year of the Ox and greeting the community during a socially distanced drive-thru Lunar New Year festival on Feb. 26.

El Monte Union students and families enjoyed the traditional cuisine, entertainment and gifts that accompany this special day on the lunar calendar, signaling the beginning of spring and bringing tidings of good fortune, wealth, and longevity. The festivities culminated with a presentation of red envelopes, full of chocolate coins, to students.

"El Monte is rich with multicultural traditions that bring our families and communities closer together," El Monte Union Director of Assessment, Accountability and Family Engagement Edith Echeverria said. "This year, more than ever, it is important that we continue to celebrate these generational milestones and let our families know that the District is invested in their health, safety and well-being, as well as academic achievement."

Families entered a tunnel adorned with traditional Lunar New Year décor, opened the



El Monte Union High School District families drive-thru the District office complex, heralding the Year of the Ox and celebrating the Lunar New Year Feb. 26.

trunks of their cars, then stopped at several stations to receive items that included water and tea; a meal of orange chicken, fried rice, stir-fry vegetables, chow mein, dumplings and dessert; and a tote bag filled with school supplies and a tumbler with the District logo.

"The Immortals" entertained guests with a traditional Lion Dance incorporating brightly colored lion and dragon costumes, gongs and symbols.

The Lunar New Year celebration was made possible thanks to District administrators, faculty and staff, as well as parent volunteers. This is the second so-

cially distanced cultural celebration the District has staged during the 2020-21 school year, following the successful Posada holiday event in December 2020.

"El Monte Union is blessed to have the support of so many hard working and dedicated staff members who want to keep our traditions alive and support our community," Superintendent Dr. Edward Zuniga said. "Though our contact was limited, it was good to have an opportunity to see our families and wish them well. We look forward to the day that we can once again see all of our students at school."



El Monte Union High School District staff present gifts to students and families during the District's Lunar New Year drive-thru celebration Feb. 26.

LA County Sheriff's Department employees are now Mirroring LA County Demographics

LOS ANGELES COUNTY - Since taking office, Sheriff Villanueva's vision of LASD's hiring practices have resulted in sworn personnel representing what our communities look like. Currently, the LA County demographics are reflected in all ranks from entry level deputy to the top ranks. Sheriff Villanueva oversees the LASD which is comprised of approximately 9,800 sworn personnel, 18,000 total personnel who serve throughout Los Angeles County, a County with over 10 million residents, and spread out over 4,000 square miles.

During Sheriff Villanueva's tenure there has also been equity in promotions at the Executive ranks. For example, Sheriff Villanueva has appointed one Hispanic and one Asian to the Undersheriff position, a rank designating the second in command of the Sheriff's Department, which is currently held by Undersheriff Timothy K. Murakami.

At the Division Chief level, this is the first time in the history of the Department there are four African American Division Chiefs.

As of January 31, 2021, the Executive ranks from Captain to Chief were represented by 26 females, compared to 94 males, which resulted in 21.66% female and 78.33% male representation. Department females account for 18.3% of LASD personnel at all ranks (The national average is 11.9%).



Photo courtesy of the LA County Sheriff's Dept.

RACE	2020 LASD SWORN RACE DEMOGRAPHICS	2019 LA COUNTY RACE DEMOGRAPHICS * CensusReporter.org
White	31.2%	26%
Black	7.5%	8%
Asian	5.5%	15%
Hispanic	52.5%	49%
Other	3.3%	2%

COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATE

NOW VACCINATING

- Healthcare workers, staff and residents at Skilled Nursing Facilities, Staff & Residents at Long-Term Care Facilities
- LA County Residents 65+

ELIGIBILITY EXPANDS ON MARCH 1ST

- Education and Childcare, Emergency Services, Food and Agriculture

For a full list of those eligible, please visit VaccinateLACounty.com

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